LOBSTER, CRAB, and FISH POT GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

This log contains detailed questions about the gear fished. Complete a new log for each uniquely configured gear (as defined below) **hauled** during a trip. These unique configurations may be based on variables such as number of pots, baiting method, etc. Number each gear configuration sequentially. Any changes in these fields require the completion of a new Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log.

If a gear is set out and hauled more than once during a trip do not complete a new Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log for the multiple hauls. Rather, record on the Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Haul Log which gear number is being hauled. In addition, record any other information necessary to understand the manner in which the gear was set/hauled in COMMENTS.

If the vessel has two or more identical gears which are hauled separately, complete only one Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log and record the consecutively assigned numbers of all identical gears described in GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1). See the lobster, crab, and fish pot definitions below and GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1) for more information on defining and numbering gears.

If information is unavailable or unknown to any question except a "No/Yes" question, record a dash (-) in the field. If the answer to a "No/Yes" question is unknown, record a "9" on the line next to the code for "No" to indicate that the field was not skipped, but the answer is unknown. If a field relates to a question to which you previously answered "No", leave the field blank.

Become familiar with the following definitions.

DEFINITIONS

Lobster, Crab, or Fish Pot Trawl: A series of traps attached to a mainline ("the trawl or string"). Each trap contains a ballast to ensure minimal movement on the ocean floor. The traps are baited, and configured to allow entry, but no exit, of the targeted species.

Kitchen: Section of the trap where the bait is located.

Parlor: Section of the trap from which animals are removed by the fisherman.

Collar: A non-return device in the shape of a funnel whose tapered end is directed away from the opening and into the catch/bait chamber. This device is common in crab, eel, and fish pots and is also called "the throat".

Gear: An individual lobster, crab, or fish pot trawl.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing Header Fields **A, B and D** refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

1. GEAR NUMBER(S): Record the consecutive number(s) assigned to each uniquely configured gear hauled and for which characteristics are described. See the definition of gear in the introduction.

NOTE: If two or more identical gears are used, assign consecutive numbers to each gear and record all of these numbers on one Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log.

Example: The first uniquely configured gear is "1", and its characteristics will be recorded on one Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log. The next two **identical** gears are "2, 3", and their identical characteristics will be recorded on a second Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log.

NOTE: Gears should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they are hauled aboard the vessel to which you are deployed.

Example: First gear hauled is "1", next gear hauled is "2", etc.

2. NUMBER OF POTS: Record the **total** number of individual pots used in this gear.

POT CHARACTERISTICS

NOTE: If a trawl includes more than one type of pot, complete a Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log for the pot type that makes up the majority (>50%) of the trawl, and record the number of the pots of each different side construction in COMMENTS.

3. SHAPE: Record the shape of the pots used on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

00 = Unknown.
01 = Rectangular.
02 = Round/Oval.
03 = 1/2 Round, record only the BOTTOM LENGTH (#7), BOTTOM WIDTH (#8) and HEIGHT (#9).
04 = Cone.
05 = Trapezoid.
99 = Other, record the pot shape on line 3A.

4. SIDE CONSTRUCTION: Record the type of material used in the construction of the sides of the pot, by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Wood Lathe.
2 = Plastic Coated Wire.
3 = Twine Mesh.
4 = Plastic Mesh.
8 = Combination, record the side construction materials on line 4A.
9 = Other, record the side construction material on line 4A.

5. TOP LENGTH: Record, in whole inches, the length of the top of the pots used on this gear.

6. TOP WIDTH: Record, in whole inches, the width of the top of the pots used on this gear.

7. BOTTOM LENGTH: Record, in whole inches, the length of the bottom of the pots used on this gear.

8. BOTTOM WIDTH: Record, in whole inches, the width of the bottom of the pots used on this gear.

9. HEIGHT: Record, in whole inches, the height of the pots used on this gear.

10. DISTANCE BETWEEN POTS: Record, in whole feet, the **average** distance between the pots used on this gear.

ENTRANCE

11. NUMBER: Record the number of entrances used in the pots on this gear.

12. RING SIZE: Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the inside ring diameter from the entrance(s) used in the pots on this gear. Use calipers for this measurement. If no ring is used, record a dash (-). See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

13. LOCATION: Record the location of the entrance(s) used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Top.
2 = Side.
3 = End.
8 = Combination, record all entrance locations on line 13A.
9 = Other, record the entrance location on line 13A.

ESCAPE VENT

14. USED?: Record whether any escape vent(s) is (are) used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

15. NUMBER: Record the number of escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear.

16. LENGTH: Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the length of the escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear. Use calipers to obtain this measurement. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

17. HEIGHT: Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the height of the escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear. Use calipers to obtain this measurement. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

18. SHAPE: Record the shape of the escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

00 = Unknown.
01 = Rectangular.
02 = Round/Oval.
99 = Other, record the escape vent shape on line 18A.

19. LOCATION: Record the location of escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear, by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Top.
2 = Side.
3 = End.
8 = Combination, record all escape vent locations on line 19A.
9 = Other, record the escape vent location on line 19A.

BIODEGRADABLE PANEL

20. USED?: Record whether a biodegradable panel is used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

21. ATTACHMENT TYPE: Record the material used to attach the biodegradable panel to the pots on this gear, by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Iron Hogrings.
2 = Degradable Plastic.
3 = Softwood Lathe.
4 = Uncoated Wire.
9 = Other, record the attachment type on line 21A.

BAIT

22. METHOD: Record the method used to bait the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = String.
2 = Bait Bag.
9 = Other, record the baiting method on line 22A.

COMMENTS

Record any additional information about this gear. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.